



AJ 025: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

Proposer:**Name:**

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Effective Term:

Fall 2025

Does this course use a CA Common Course Number

No

Credit Status:

Credit - Degree Applicable

Subject:

AJ - Administration of Justice

Course Number:

025

Discipline:

And/Or	(Discipline)
		Administration of Justice (Police science, corrections, law enforcement)	

Catalog Title

Constitutional Law

COS Course Description

Students will apply logic and critical thinking to written and oral communication in the study of the fundamental rights of all citizens as protected by the United States Constitution, including various ethnic or cultural groups with varying Western and non-Western perspectives. Case studies and comparative analysis will be used as examples of the application of law.

Advisory on Recommended Preparation:

ENGL 001 or equivalent college course with a minimum grade of C

Method of Instruction:

Distance Education
Lecture and/or Discussion
Other (Specify)

Course Units/Hours:**Course Units Minimum:**

3

Lecture Hours Minimum (week)

3

Lab Hours Minimum (week)

0

Activity Hours Minimum (week)

0

Total Contact Hours Minimum (semester)

52.5

Total Outside Hours Minimum (semester)

105

Total Student Learning Minimum Hours (semester)

157.5

Repeatability:

No

Open Entry/Exit:

No

Field Trips:

Not Required

Grade Mode:

Standard Letter

TOP Code:

210500 - * Administration of Justice

SAM Code:

C - Clearly Occupational

Course Content

COS Methods of Evaluation:

Essay quizzes or exams
Oral presentations
Problem solving assignments or activities
Problem solving quizzes or exams
Short answer quizzes or exams
Written essays or extended papers

COS Course Topics:

COS Course Topics	
1	Identification of fallacies and the use of inductive and deductive reasoning
2	Definition of legal terms and processes and the use of a legal dictionary
3	Orientation and introduction to the study of constitutional law and civil liberties
4	Case method study of relevant cases. Concept of states rights and conflict with federal law, Selective v. total incorporation doctrine, 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 14th Amendment cases. The 14th Amendment's Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses. Where did the right of "privacy, liberty, and association" come from? The "penumbra" of rights.
5	Application of appropriate thought processes to a variety of substantive topics within the field of civil liberties Constitutional interpretation and judicial power Equal protection and due process Cultural diversity, societal concerns and the law Balance of freedom and governmental authority Alternative conflict, mediation and resolution Anticipating future constitutional trends
6	Legal analysis and argument Common Law and precedent Legal terms, concepts and research Writing case briefs and memoranda Oral and written arguments
7	Comparative analysis of other societies using constitutional or international law constructs

COS Course Objectives:

COS Course Objectives	
1	Analyze legal terms and concepts as related to Constitutional Law and Civil Liberties.
2	Apply appropriate case law to real-life Civil Liberty Issues and criminal justice reform initiatives.
3	Apply existing Supreme Court cases to fact patterns and derive appropriate legal conclusions.

4	Defend legal arguments in oral and written form.
5	Present assigned case briefs orally in class.
6	Complete case briefs from selected Supreme Court cases.

Course Outcomes:

Course Outcomes	
1	Democratic Government Under The Constitution: Students will be able to understand how the three branches of government operate and interrelate through checks and balances under the Constitution to provide a democratic infrastructure of governance.
2	Analysis and Logic: Students will be able to analyze Supreme Court decisions to determine the rule of law and the judicial interpretation of the Constitution, and how such Supreme Court decisions protect the civil liberties of all citizens including members of ethnic, cultural, or historically disenfranchised groups.
3	Application of The Constitution Today: Students will be able to discuss, and critically address current issues within a constitutional framework to include the perspectives of ethnic, minority, or other historically disenfranchised groups with diverse worldviews.
4	Diverse World Perspectives: Students will compare and contrast constitutional frameworks and principles in Western and non-Western societies, highlighting differences in the protection of civil liberties and individual rights.

Assignments:

Assignment Type:	Details
Reading	A. Each week students will read an assigned chapter in the textbook. B. Each week students will read the United States Supreme Court cases that are mentioned in the chapter they read in the textbook. 1. Their thinking about the issue involved in the case will be informed by their reading and they will ultimately write a paper analyzing the case arguments and decision.
Writing	Students will write several 500 word briefs on a United States Supreme Court case related to the criminal justice system, analyzing the Court's arguments and decision. Papers will be written at a college level, including accurate spelling and grammar.
Homework	A typical homework assignment will require a students to read a United States Supreme Court case and write an essay discussing the Court's decision in the case. The paper will be written at college level, including spelling and grammar.

Representative Texts, Manuals, and/or OER that is equivalent, Other Support Materials:

Texts used by individual institutions and even individual sections will vary. The list of representative texts must include at least one text with a publication date within five (5) years of the course outline approval date.

COS Textbooks or other support materials

Resource Type:	Details
	Constitutional Law by Hall, 3rd Edition 2024 Pearson Print ISBN 9780135772577, 0135772575 Print ISBN 9780135772577, 0135772575 eText ISBN 9780135772621, 0135772621
Books	Constitutional Law by Hall, 3rd Edition 2019 Pearson ISBN: 9780133767698
Books	Black's Law Dictionary. Latest Edition. West Publishers.

Equity Review:

No

Transferable to CSU

Yes - Proposed



This course will also be proposed for UC transfer.

Yes

Transferable to UC

Yes - Approved

Cal-GETC General Education

Transferable to UC

COS General Education

COS GE Area 1B: Oral Communication & Critical Thinking

COS GE A2: Oral Communication/Analytic Thinking

Other Degree Attributes

Degree Applicable

Not a Basic Skills Course

Distance Learning Addendum

DLA - Senate Approved 11-29-23 - AJ LE Program.pdf

Banner Title:

Constitutional Law

Curriculum Committee Approval Date:

04/02/2025

Academic Senate Approval Date:

04/09/2025

District Governing Board Approval Date:

04/21/2025

Course Control Number:

CCC000273076